

1 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR:

FROM:

SUBJECT: Comments on the Summer Intern Program

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1. General Comments:

I found my second summer as an intern even more valuable than last year. This was due to the fact that the knowledge which I acquired last year provided a basis for a more thorough understanding of the workings of the Agency and its various components. I found that the opportunity to increase my knowledge in my area of specialization was further enhanced by not having to "learn the ropes," which took up a considerable portion of last year. I would definitely recommend to first year interns that they return for a second year.

2. Specific Comments:

a. Personnel Matters:

This summer, as with last year, the actions of the personnel administration of OBGI was excellent. The only hitch came in the payment of a raise which took a month to get through finance channels. Being able to report for work in May was a pleasant change from last year.

There is one situation which I will bring up, although it falls more into the category of "disquieting rumor" than substantiated fact. It appears that there is an inequity in pay scales between the various offices for interns of comparable background. If this is true, then this is a serious problem which requires rectification. Even if it is not true, some interns believe it to be which is equally harmful.

b. Agency Familiarization:

Although I did not attend a majority of the briefings, I found those which I did attend to be interesting, informative and very useful in "fleshing out" the background which I received last year. I was glad to see the overview of the Agency structure

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presented early in the schedule because it helps to alleviate the confusion of acronyms and helps the intern understand how the various branches relate, especially with all the recent changes.

c. Work and Intra-office Familiarization:

As with last year, the members of my branch impressed me with their knowledge and their willingness to share it. I would particularly like to thank [redacted] my branch chief, for his aid in scheduling visits to other divisions and his assignment of broad and meaningful projects. It was a pleasure to have several projects of different types which I could carry through to completion. The efforts of [redacted] and the other branch members contributed greatly to my background in geography.

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d. Other Facets of the Program:

I was glad to see my suggestion of last year to allow an optional briefing attendance for returnees was implemented. This leaves them with more flexibility which is necessary in view of increased participation in the work within the branches.

The initial social hour remains a problem. I still believe a lunch hour meeting might be better.

The briefings in the morning are a good idea when compared to last year's afternoon sessions. However, a starting time of 9:30 would be better than 9:00 due to the shuttle schedule from Rosslyn. The later time would allow interns to visit their offices before having to leave for Headquarters where they had an hour to kill.

3. Future Plans:

It is difficult to comment on a job situation which does not exist. Nevertheless, the Agency does present an attractive possibility for future employment should positions open up. My immediate future plans, however, entail first having my PhD completed before essaying into geography's competitive job market; a process which will take about another year at least.

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